

**The Tree Commission Meeting for the City of New Castle took place on February 1, 2010 at 5:30 p.m. in the City of New Castle's Town Hall.**

Members Present: Chip Patterson, Chairperson  
Susan Keyser, Co-Chairperson  
Erv Thatcher  
John Lloyd  
Nancy Coning  
Tom Truman

Members Absent: Fran Peden  
Mark Miller

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Patterson at 5:35 p.m. Roll call was taken.

**Approval of Minutes – Ms. Coning made a motion to adopt the meeting minutes for 1/4/10. Ms. Keyser seconded the motion which was approved by unanimous vote.**

Tree, Inc. – Steve Samluk was introduced to Commission members and provided a brief background of his qualifications. He is working on his arborist certification with the goal of becoming a Master Arborist. When asked about his ability to respond to requests for his services by the City he informed he would be able to handle requests in one (1) day. Messrs. Thatcher and Patterson informed that the City will work with him and provide whatever additional services/equipment he may need. Mr. Patterson would like Mr. Samluk to continue Mr. Rizzardi's practice, when possible, of talking to homeowners when work is going to be done on their property. Ms. Keyser cautioned him about taking directions from the homeowner. Mr. Samluk was made aware of how the Tree Commission operates and how complaints are handled. Mr. Patterson informed that Mr. Poore of American Tree Company has not gotten bonded to date. Bonding is required by the City. He added that he believes we should work with one (1) business in order to be efficient. There are no contracts involved. As long as the work is satisfactory and the rates are reasonable we will continue with one (1) vendor.

**Ms. Keyser made a motion to award our work to Tree, Inc. Ms. Coning seconded the motion. The motion was approved by unanimous vote.**

*(Mr. Samluk was given an open invitation to attend Tree Commission meetings.)*

**MEMBERS REPORT**

Erv Thatcher – Reported on two (2) trees at 138 & 140 East Third Street. The tree in front of 138 East Third Street is not doing well while the other tree is fine. Ms. Keyser believes these trees have been discussed by the Tree Commission in the past and is opposed to removing the tree that is not doing well. Tree, Inc. will look at the tree and provide assessment at the next meeting.

Fran Peden – Nothing to report.

Susan Keyser – Nothing to report.

Tom Truman – Commended Bob Rizzardi on the prompt and neat work done on the trees at Dewey Park. He inquired about 300 Harmony Street. There are two big trees (oak and swamp maple) that have branches against the house and wires cutting through. There are a number of tree branches hanging over the street as well. Mr. Patterson said he has an arborist on his staff and they will handle the lines. Tree, Inc. will look at the branches and report back to this body with his recommendation.

Nancy Coning – Nothing to report.

John Lloyd – Nothing to report.

#### CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Ennio DiAlessandro, 38 West 7<sup>th</sup> Street (and Tremont Street) -- Mr. Patterson reported that Bob Rizzardi looked at the red bud tree and a Bradford pear tree at this location and recommended they both be removed. The red bud tree is almost dead and the pear tree is in a bad location. **Mr. Thatcher made a motion to remove both trees based on Mr. Rizzardi's recommendation. Mr. Truman seconded the motion which was passed by unanimous vote.** Tree, Inc. will remove both trees and use the grindings to fill the holes.

Mr. Patterson said there is a tree near 10<sup>th</sup> Street and Clayton Street that Bob Rizzardi has removed dead wood from to keep it safe. This tree is dead and needs to be removed. He is unsure of the species. **Ms. Keyser made a motion to remove the tree at 10<sup>th</sup> and Clayton. Mr. Truman seconded the motion. The motion was approved by unanimous vote.** Mr. Patterson will show Tree, Inc. the tree to be removed.

Lars Johannesen, 106 Brylgon Avenue – Mr. Patterson showed Commission members photos of the tree and its condition. A letter dated 1/27/10 has been provided by the homeowner indicating that the tree must be removed in order to get insurance on the house. The original letter the homeowner provided did not make mention of the tree. Ms. Keyser suggested responding that this tree is in the public right-of-way and is maintained by the City. Bob Rizzardi has done trimming work on this tree over the years. Mr. Patterson's crew has removed vines from the tree. The tree is a healthy tree. Ms. Coning informed that it is becoming more difficult to get insurance companies to insure in the City. Mr. Thatcher inquired about liability for injuries incurred at this location if there is no coverage. Mr. Patterson does not believe the Tree Commission/City would be liable. Commission members do not believe the tree is the cause for the homeowner not being able to get insurance and are opposed to removing it. Mr. Lloyd added that if the homeowner doesn't have insurance on the house that the house cannot be rented. Commission members would like Russ Carlson (arborist) to look at the tree and provide an evaluation.

Michael Hemphill Removal of Trees – Mr. Patterson was contacted by Dorsey Fiske and Kathy McDonough informing they did not know who on the Trustees spoke with

Mr. Hemphill about removal of trees on his property. The Trustees suggested that Mr. Hemphill get an opinion from the Tree Commission. This matter is off the agenda until we hear from the Trustees. Ms. (Cathie) Thomas questioned whether the Tree Commission has the authority to act in this matter. Mr. Patterson sent her the portions of the Tree Ordinance (74-2, Powers & Duties, Section B) that states this body has the right to advise the Trustees and work with them on their property as well as with private property owners as requested. (*Discussion followed.*)

Frank DiSabatino, 10 Baldt Avenue – Mr. Patterson informed Tree, Inc. of a swamp maple to be removed per action taken at our January meeting.

10<sup>th</sup> & Delaware Streets – Mr. Patterson updated Commission members about the homeowner's previous complaint of tree roots in the sewer line. The County came out and ran the lateral to the sewer. As a result the healthy sycamore trees should be spared. The County's position is if you follow their procedure concerning cleaning of sewer lines and it fails then they will replace the line.

Adjournment

**A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting. The motion was approved and the meeting was adjourned at 6:35 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted,

Debbie Turner  
Stenographer